



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

| | |
|----------|-------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER |
|----------|-------|

40

DATE MAILED:

DEC 6 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 20-45 and 59-74 for the reasons indicated below:

Claims 67-74 of the present application were copied from U.S. Patent No. 5,598,196 to Braun. The Reasons for allowance stated that the present application was in condition for allowance because the Braun patent had expired for failure to pay the issue fee. It has been brought to the examiner's attention that the maintenance fees are up to date on U.S. Patent No. 5,598,196.

Applicant is advised that the Notice of Allowance mailed is vacated. If the issue fee has already been paid, applicant may request a refund or request that the fee be credited to a deposit account. However, applicant may wait until the application is either found allowable or held abandoned. If allowed, upon receipt of a new Notice of Allowance, applicant may request that the previously submitted issue fee be applied. If abandoned, applicant may request refund or credit to a specified Deposit Account.

Christopher Mahoney
Primary Examiner AU2851

RUSSELL ADAMS
SOLICITING PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Howard Goldberg
Group Director 2800